

May 12 1999

To Whom It May Concern,

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I am writing to urge that the FDA retain, and even strengthen, rules for the labeling of irradiated food. Regardless of the effects and implications of this technology, which I find dangerous and repugnant, there are literally millions of American consumers and citizens who have expressed the opinion that irradiation should not be a part of food processing in this country. To cease to require that food products treated in this manner be labeled as such is to deny individuals the right to decide for themselves whether or not to purchase them and thereby to support this part of the food industry. The government has no right to deprive the people of this choice by allowing companies employing irradiation to market their products without appropriate labeling. Indeed, to remove labeling restrictions would be to make it impossible for free market dynamics to determine whether or not food irradiation is acceptable to the American populace. By doing so, the FDA would, in effect, be giving companies using this technology unfair access to the market. In this case, it is incumbent upon the FDA to support the right of consumers to know and to choose rather than bolster the use of questionable and unnecessary food treatment practices.

Sincerely,



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re: Docket 98N-1038

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